

HORWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
and
HOUSING MANAGER

for the year 1969

HORWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Councillor R. Yardley.

Members—Councillors E. Dobson, J.P., L. G. Fearnhead, P. S. Hewitt, Mrs. G. Kay, L. Lowe, Mrs. R. Moss, R. Moss, A. Oakley, A. J. Ratcliffe, D. Smith, A. Wright.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health:
§ E. Taylor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.
Telephone Leigh 73227/8/9.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager:
K. Ratcliffe, M.A.P.H.I.

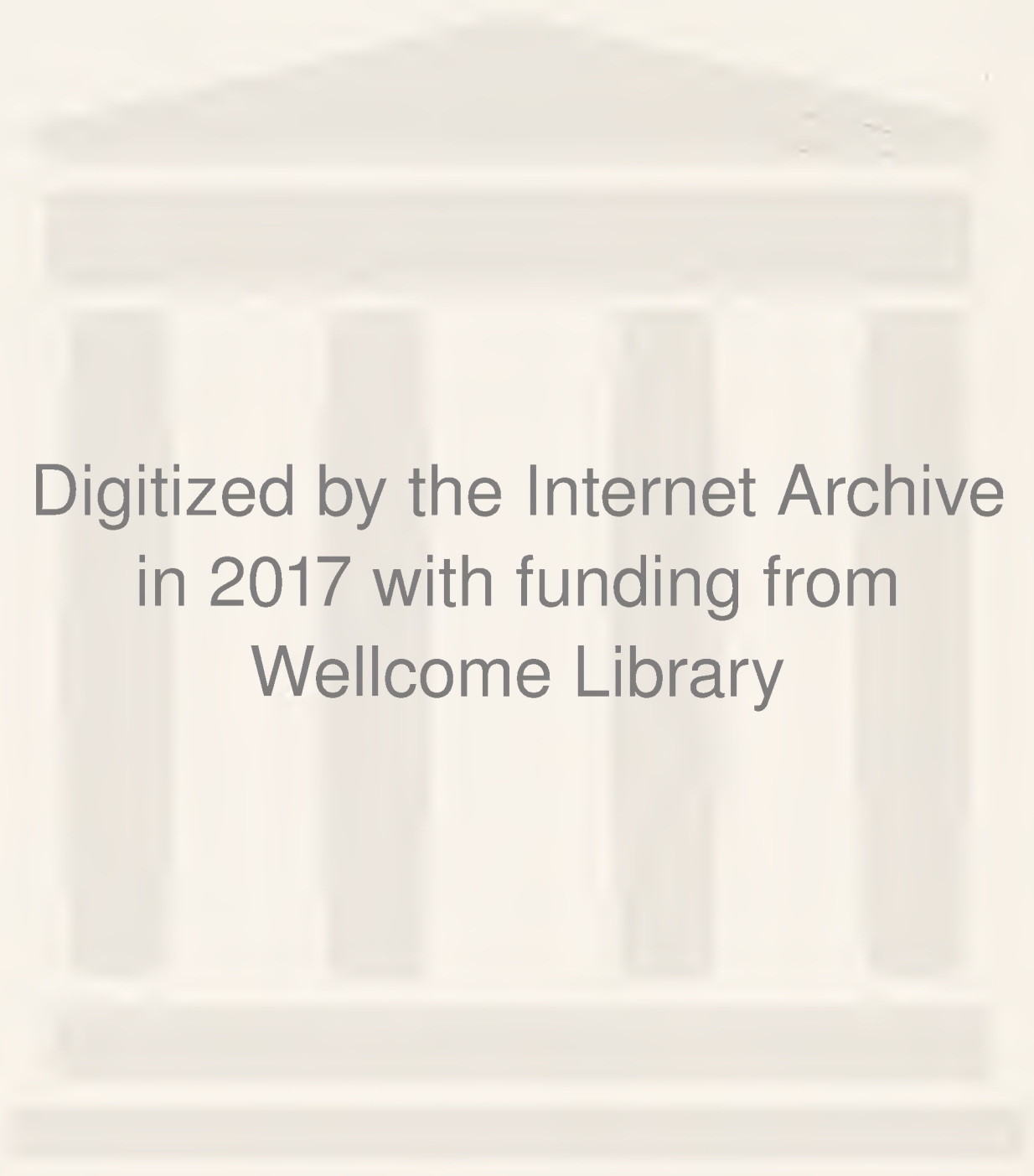
Additional Public Health and Meat Inspector:
J. M. Lowe, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerks:
Mrs. R. Brierley.
Mrs. M. Atherton.

§ Also Divisional Medical Officer;

Divisional Health Committee No. 11,
Lancashire County Council:

Divisional School Medical Officer;
Lancashire County Council:



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Public Health Department,
Public Hall,
Horwich

To the Chairman and Members of the
Horwich Urban District Council,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your information and consideration, the annual report on the health of the District for the year 1969.

The slow continuing increase in population continued by 130—producing an estimated mid year population of 16,670. The Registrar General's vital statistics show evidence of a healthy and thriving population and compare more than favourably with the national figures. Births increased by 13 and deaths decreased by 16. The efficiency of the antenatal care and the co-operation of the expectant mothers is reflected in the low infant mortality rate of 11.0 and the equally low perinatal mortality rate (covering stillbirths and early neonatal deaths) of 18. These rates are all an improvement on last year's commendable returns.

There were no maternal deaths.

Perusal of the table on page 8 reveals that below the age of 35 years there were only 9 deaths—3 infant deaths which were unavoidable, one infant pneumonia, and 3 males aged between 5 and 25 years from motor vehicle accidents, one young adult from a neoplasm and another from heart disease.

It is pleasing to be able to report progress with Smoke Control but most frustrating to be caught with a most nebulous solid fuel policy. What a tragedy that we who sit on a coalfield—albeit no longer productive, should have to suffer with continuing indecision as to the availability of solid fuel. Regrettable as it is, the only logical conclusion is to advise the use of the piped fuels (electricity, gas and oil) more and more in the future.

I am sure everyone was delighted at the outstanding instant success of the Horwich Pool.

The Council continued to make provision for the frailer elderly citizen and inaugurated a further Warden Supervised Scheme at Lower Claypool (20 units) and brought the total of Shelter Accommodation to 102 places.

The personal health services listed in Section B of this report have again been provided by the Lancashire County Council through its Divisional Health Administration Scheme. For full details of these services I would invite your attention to my report as Divisional Medical Officer.

In conclusion I am appreciative of the interest of members of the Committee and the Chief Officials and their staffs for the ready help and co-operation throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

E. TAYLOR,
Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres 3,254.

Population - Census 1961 (provisional) 16,067

Population - 1969* 16,670
(Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimates - 1969)

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1969)
according to Rate Books 5,942

Rateable Value £457,734

Sum represented by a Penny Rate £1,789

Social Conditions.—No material change.

Vital Statistics.—

(Rates calculated on a population basis of 16,670)

BIRTHS	Males.	Females.	Total
--------	--------	----------	-------

Live Births:

Legitimate	134	127	261
Illegitimate	10	10	20
Total	144	137	281

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000) 16.9

Still Births:

Legitimate	3	nil	3
Illegitimate	nil	nil	nil
Total	3	nil	3

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births) 11.0

Total Births: 284. Males 147. Females 137.

DEATHS

Infant Deaths (under 1 year)	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	nil	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	3	nil	3

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	11.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	11.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) ...	11.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births ...	7.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) ...	18.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
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Causes of Infant Deaths.

Cause of Death	under 1 day		1-7 days		1-4 weeks		1-6 months		6-12 months	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Congenital Anomalies			1		1					
Other causes of perinatal mortality			1							
Total	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

The following is a statement showing comparative statistics in respect of years 1964-1969

Year	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still Births		Maternal Mortality		Infantile Mortality			
									Total		Neo-natal	
	No. registered	Rate per 1000 Pop.	No. registered	Rate per 1000 Pop.	No. registered	Rate per 1000 Pop.	No. of Deaths registered	Rate per 1000 total births	No. of Deaths registered	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of Deaths registered	Rate per 1000 live births
1969	281	*16.9	216	*13.0	3	11.0	nil	nil	3	11.0	3	11.0
1968	268	16.2	232	14.0	7	25.0	nil	nil	4	15.0	4	15.0
1967	269	16.5	212	13.0	3	11.0	1	3.68	2	7.0	nil	nil
1966	276	17.1	208	12.9	2	14.3	nil	nil	9	32.2	6	21.7
1965	240	14.9	205	12.7	2	36.1	nil	nil	7	32.2	4	21.7
1964	255	15.0	184	11.6	4	15.4	1	3.86	8	31.4	5	19.6
Ave. 5 yrs 1964-69		15.9		12.8		20.4		1.50		23.6		15.6

* Adjusted birth rate (comparability factor 1.08) = 18.3 per 1000

* Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.01) = 13.1 per 1000

The following table shows the causes of death at different periods of life during 1969.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in years								
					1- 4	5- 14	15- 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65- 74	75 & over
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	M	1								1			
Malignant Neoplasm - buccal cavity, etc.	M										1		
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	M	5								1	3	1	
Malignant Neoplasm - Intestine	M	3							1	1		1	
Malignant Neoplasm - Larynx, etc.	M	1							1				
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung Bronchus	M	7								2	5		
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	F	5							1		3	1	
Malignant Neoplasm - Prostate	M	2								1		1	
Leukaemia	M												
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	M	4					1			2		1	
Diabetes mellitus	M	1								1		1	
Other endocrine, etc. diseases	M	1									1		
Anaemias	M	2									1	1	
Meningitis	M	1										1	
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	M	1										1	
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	M	4						1		1	1		
Hypertensive disease	M	4							1	2		1	
Ishaemic heart disease	M	36					1		3	9	8	15	
Other forms of heart disease	M	16							1	2	4	9	
Cerebrovascular disease	M	15								1	2	5	
Other diseases of circulatory system	M	5							1		1	3	
Pneumonia	M	11			1			1			4	5	
Bronchitis and emphysema	M	11						1		2	3	5	
Asthma	M	1											1
Other diseases of respiratory system	M	1							1				

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in years								
					1- 4	5- 14	15- 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65- 74	75 & over
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	M	1										1	
	F	1									1		
Cirrhosis of liver	M												
	F	1									1		
Other diseases of digestive system	M												
	F	2										1	1
Neomiosis and nephrosis	M	1								1			
	F												
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	1										1	
Other diseases of genito urinary system	M												
	F	1										1	
Congenital anomalies	M	2	2										
	F												
Other causes of perinatal mortality	M	1	1										
	F												
Motor vehicle accidents	M	3				2	1						
	F	1							1				
All other accidents	M	1											1
	F	3											3
Suicide and self- inflicted injuries	M	1									1		
	F	1											1
All other external causes	M												
	F	1											1
Total all causes	M	118	3		1	2	1	2	2	9	21	34	43
	F	98							2	5	16	24	51

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

Ambulance Service, Swinton 4343.

Care of Children - Children Act 1948.

Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council.

Area No. 4.

Area Children's Officer - Mr. K. R. Harding,

Ashfield Park Drive, Standish. Tel. Standish 3147.

Clinics.

1. Ante-natal.
Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.
Tuesday p.m.
2. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis
Immunisation.
Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.
By appointment.
3. Maternity and Child Welfare.
Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.
Wednesday and Thursday p.m.
St. Elizabeth's Mission.
Friday p.m. (1st and 3rd only).
4. Ophthalmic.
School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.
By appointment.
5. Orthopædic.
School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.
1st Friday each month.
6. Post-natal.
Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.
Tuesday p.m.
7. School Health and Minor Ailment.
School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.
Monday p.m.
8. Tuberculosis Dispensary and Chest Clinic.
Civic Centre, Bolton.
9. Venereal Diseases.
(i) Civic Centre, Bolton.
Males - Mon. to Fri. 9-30 to 12-30 p.m.
Mon., Wed., Fri. 4-30 to 7 p.m.
Females - Tues., Thurs., Sat. 9-30 to 11-30 a.m.
Mon., Wed., Fri. 4-30 to 7 p.m.

- (ii) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.
 Males - Friday 2-0 p.m. to 6-30 p.m.
 Females - Wednesday 2-0 p.m. to 6-0 p.m.

Urgent Cases:

Mon. to Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sats. 9 to 11-30 a.m.
 4-30 p.m. to 7-0 p.m.

Convalescence.

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C.
 Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Convalescent Treatment.

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board.

Health Visiting Service.

Health Visitors/School Nurses are employed in the district by Lancs. C.C.

Home Help Service.

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C.
 Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Home Nursing Service.

District Nurses are employed in the district by Lancs. C.C.

Hospitals.

Bolton Royal Infirmary; Bolton District General Hospital, Farnworth; Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan; and other hospitals situated in the region of the Hospital Board.

Laboratory Facilities.

Regional Hospital Laboratories at Bolton and Wigan Infirmaries.

Maternity Homes.

"Haslam," "Havercroft," and "Heaton Grange" Maternity Homes, Bolton, and Bolton District General Hospital.

Midwifery Service.

Domiciliary midwives employed by the Lancs. C.C. practice in the district.

Nursing Homes.

Newlands Nursing Home, Bolton.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.

Provision for their care is made by the Lancashire County Council.

Council for Moral Welfare Work.

Moral Welfare Worker for the area:-

Miss A. Rigby,
24, Acresfield,
Bolton. Tel. Bolton 26524.

Welfare Services.

Under arrangements made by Lancs. C.C.

Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.
Residential accommodation at Atherleigh Grange,
Hourigan House, Leigh and Winifred Kettle House,
Westhoughton.

X-ray Facilities.

Available at Bolton Royal Infirmary and the Wigan
Infirmary. Special facilities for chest X-ray at the
Hospital Board's Dispensaries and Chest Clinics.

SECTION C.**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

Water Supply.—Apart from 30 houses situated in the higher parts of the town all of the dwelling houses in the town are provided with water from public mains.

There were 79 samples of water taken for bacteriological and chemical examination. The results of these were as follows:-

Examinations from public supply.

No. taken	No. Satisfactory.	No. Unsatisfactory.
38	37	1

Examinations from private supply.

No. taken	No. Satisfactory.	No. Unsatisfactory.
41	23	18

The unsatisfactory samples proved satisfactory on resampling.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Only extensions to new properties have been made during the year.

Public Cleansing.—During the year the following work was carried out by the Department:-

Tons of refuse collected and disposed of	6,746
No. of dustbins and paper sacks collected	530,360
No. of pail closets emptied	1,768

The task system has been continued throughout the year and weekly collections have been maintained.

The service is operated by two S. and D. Pakamatic vehicles of 35 and 20 cu. yd. capacity working five days each week manned by two drivers and nine men. On one day each week a third vehicle is used to collect the pails from premises in the higher reaches of the town and to collect special items of refuse.

There are some 3,200 premises using plastic bin liners and a further 500 using paper refuse sacks. Plastic liners placed in the ordinary galvanised dustbin are provided at all new premises. In addition to normal refuse some 500 special loads were collected and disposed of during the year.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on an extensive peat moss using a Weatherill loading shovel to cover. The total cost of refuse disposal during the year was £520, but this low cost does not reflect the true expense in that £2,200 was received for special tipping.

The overall cost of collections and disposal was £23,120. The approximate cost per ton of refuse being £3 8s. 8d. and the cost per bin collected 10d. as compared with £3 3s. 3d. and 10d. respectively last year.

Sanitary Inspections.—During the year the Department received some 796 complaints relating to all matters including refuse removal and housing repair. Throughout the year 2,823 premises were visited for all purposes and 6,791 inspections were made. The following is a classified statement of inspections excluding Council house repairs:—

Housing defects and nuisances	422
House letting	518
Drainage	463
Refuse removal and disposal	760
Scrap metal dealers	2
Verminous or dirty premises	91
Infectious diseases	5
Animal boarding establishments	1
Factories	41
Smoke abatement	1177
Improvement grants	1017
Bakehouses	18
Slum clearance	65
Ice cream premises	18

Hotels	—
Food shops and food stalls	174
Schools	5
School canteens	4
Meat inspection	225
Shops Act inspection	257
Market	225
Water supplies	116
Offices, shops and railway premises	145
Rodent control	518
Keeping of animals	6
Farms	—
Fairground stalls	3
Milk sampling and premises	64
Hospital canteens	1
Miscellaneous	429
Swimming Baths and Baths water samples	15
Noise	6

As a result of these inspections 1,337 defects or nuisances were discovered during the year and 1,298 were abated.

Factories Acts 1937 to 1959.—In accordance with the provisions of Section 128(3) of the Factories Act, 1937, the Medical Officer of Health is required to report specifically on the administration of matters under Parts 1 and 8 of this Act, which are administered by the District Council.

PART I OF THE ACT.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	61	36	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	12	3	—	—
Total ...	75	41	—	—

Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector By H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...				1	
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1				
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	1	1		2	
(c) Not separate for sexes ...					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..					
Total ...	2	1		3	

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.—There were seventeen outworkers notified as being employed in the district and these were visited during the year.

Shops.—Shops were inspected under the Shops Act and minor infringements were remedied. 257 inspections were carried out for this purpose.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.—The following is a statement showing the numbers and types of premises registered and the inspections made during the year:

Class of premises.	No. of premises registered during the year	No. of premises registered at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	1	16	11
Retail Shops	4	89	61
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	—	1	—
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens ...	—	—	—
Fuel storage depots	—	—	—
Totals	5	106	72

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises under the Act - 110.

The following table gives an analysis of the contraventions discovered during inspections:—

Section	No. of contraventions found	Section	No. of contraventions found
4 Cleanliness	13	16 Floors, passages and stairs	4
5 Overcrowding		17 Fencing exposed machinery	1
6 Temperature... ..	6	18 Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery...	
7 Ventilation	2	19 Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	
8 Lighting	1	23 Prohibition of heavy work	
9 Sanitary Conveniences	14	24 First Aid	18
10 Washing facilities ...	6	Other matters	43
11 Supply of drinking water			
12 Clothing accommodation	2		
13 Sitting facilities... ..			
14 Seats (Sedentary workers)			
15 Eating facilities			
		TOTAL	110

Camping sites.—One site situated in the Heather Hall district has been in existence for many years and is not subject to Town Planning approval. This is only seldom in use.

Smoke Control.—On the 1st October the No. 1 Smoke Control Order became operative and two further Orders—No. 2 and No. 2A—were designated and confirmation by the Ministry of Housing was received in respect of the No. 2A Order. A Ministry Inspector met the one objector to the No. 2 Order which had not been confirmed by the end of the year.

One recording station was in operation throughout the year and the results are shown below.

Daily Average.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar	Apl.	May	Jne.	July	Aug.	sep.	oct.	Nov.	Dec.
(a) Smoke particles (microgrammes per cu. metre) Station No. 1	308	202	159	150	101	63	48	59	101	154	198	296
(b) Sulphur Dioxide (microgrammes per cu. metre) Station No. 1	261	188	193	136	98	96	71	81	94	180	187	226

Observations have been kept on factory chimneys and visits made to factories when managements have been kept informed of their responsibilities under the Clean Air Act.

Offensive Trades.—There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses.—None registered.

Houses Let in Lodgings.—None Registered.

Swimming Baths.—The swimming bath continued to be popular throughout the year and was used by some 250,000 bathers.

The main pool is 25 metres long and 42 feet wide and is recognised by the Amateur Swimming Association for competitive events up to County Standard. The depth varies from three feet at the shallow end to 10 feet at the deep end to accommodate facilities for a one metre spring board. There is also a learners pool 42 feet long by 20 feet wide with wide steps providing easy access and a depth from 2 feet 6 inches to 3 feet.

Changing rooms are immediately adjacent to the pool hall and give facilities for group changing (school classes, etc.) and cubical changing (52 male and 36 female) catering for a maximum of 314 bathers.

Spectators access is from the Main Entrance Hall via the Cafeteria on to a balcony with tip up seating for 158 persons.

The heating for the pool, hall and changing areas is provided by two oil-fired boilers each rated at 1,500,000 Btu/hr.

The plant maintains the Pool Hall at 78°F and provides five air changes per hour with six air changes per hour in the changing rooms which are maintained at 70°F.

The filtration plant provides warm, filtered, sterilised water to the two Pools. The water is filtered through vertical sand filters, chemically treated with alum and soda and maintained at break point chlorination.

The temperature of both Pools is maintained at 80°F the main Pool having a turn over rate of four hours and the learners' pool a turn over rate of 1½ hours.

Samples of water were taken at regular periods throughout the year and forwarded for both chemical and bacteriological analysis. The following table gives details of samples taken:

No of samples		Source		
Bacteriological	Chemical	Learners pool	Main pool	Foot bath
38		8	17	13
	4	2	—	2

Apart from small variations which have been corrected the results have proved satisfactory.

Disinfestation.—One infestation by bed bugs of a Council house was discovered and successfully treated.

Cockroaches remain the main household pest and fourteen houses were treated for these insects during the year.

Disinfestation for cockroaches is carried out by using a pybuthrin powder.

Schools.—The standard of washing and drinking facilities is satisfactory and at the majority of the schools meals are prepared on the premises in modern, well equipped and hygienic kitchens. At the schools where kitchens are not available meals are brought in from a central kitchen.

Rag, Flock, and other Filling Materials Act, 1951.—No premises have been registered under the Act.

Rodent Control.—All complaints have been investigated by the Rodent Operator and in some instances by the Public Health Inspector. The following table shows the work carried out in treating surface infestations:-

	Type of Property	
	Non Agricultural	Agricultural
No. of properties in the district	6980	22
Total number of properties inspected following notification	107	—
No. of properties notified infested by rats	65	—
No. of properties notified infested by mice	42	—
Total number of properties inspected for rats/mice for reasons other than notification	889	—
No. of properties inspected for other reasons found to be infested by rats	—	—
No. of properties inspected for other reasons found to be infested by mice	—	—

In addition to the above work the town's sewers were treated throughout the year with fluoroacetamide.

SECTION D.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—60 samples of milk were submitted for analysis to determine the presence of brucellosis and 1 for keeping quality. The results were as follows:—

	Positive	Negative
Ring test	6	54
Culture test	1	5

Methylene Blue Test—1 sample proved satisfactory.

Notice was served on the farm whose sample proved positive prohibiting the sale of raw milk and this was withdrawn on on affected animals being removed.

Ice Cream.—There are 2 persons registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream and 58 premises registered for the sale of ice cream under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1939.

These premises have been regularly inspected and are kept in a satisfactory condition. During the year 14 samples were taken. In the case of unsatisfactory samples premises and equipment were checked and further samples taken.

Food Hygiene.—The total number of inspections during the year was 472 which included inspections of vehicles carrying food. Generally conditions were found to be good and it was not found necessary to institute proceedings, it being sufficient to draw attention to contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations and to follow this up with further visits.

The following tables show the number of premises (by type) selling food in the district together with those registered under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act:—

(a) Number of food shops.

Type of business.	No.
General grocers	50
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, poultry, etc.)	13
Meat Shops	13
Bakers and Confectioners	9

Fried fish shops	9
Sweet shops (including ice cream and minerals)	20
Licensed premises, clubs, cafes, snack bars and catering establishments	30
Others	5

(b) Food premises registered (excluding dairies).

Type of business	No. registered	No. of inspections
Fish, fruit and vegetables	2	174
Ice cream	59	
Preserved meats	21	
Preserved fish	9	

Food Poisoning.—There were no cases of food poisoning notified.

Food Condemned.—The following tinned meat and other foods were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

Tinned vegetables	25 lbs.
Tinned meats	114 lbs.
Tinned fish	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Tinned fruit	71 lbs.
Tinned milks	10 oz.
Frozen vegetables	481 lbs.
Frozen meats	456 lbs.
Frozen fish	482 lbs.
Frozen cakes and pastries	179 lbs.
Milk	1 gal. 6 pts.
Ice cream	176 lbs.
Meat	21 lbs.
Fish	10 lbs.
Fruit	8 lbs.
Bread	3 loaves
Jam	7 lbs.

The forementioned condemned food was disposed of by controlled tipping.

Shell Fish.—There are no shell fish beds or layings in the district.

Slaughter of Animals.—There is one privately owned slaughterhouse in the district which conforms to the Slaughterhouse Construction Regulations. All meat inspected at this slaughterhouse has been marked in accordance with the requirements of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 and one hundred per cent inspection has been maintained.

The following tables show the number of animals killed and inspected together with details of the diseases found:-

Table 1—Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. killed (if known)	16	445	2	1097	1	—
No. inspected	16	445	2	1097	1	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	1	1		—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	190		105	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	19	43	50	9	—	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcass condemned	—			—	—	—
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—		—	—	—

During the course of these inspections 4,392 lbs of meat and offals were condemned.

SECTION E.

HOUSING.

The Department is responsible for the repair and maintenance of all Council houses together with their letting.

There were 3,438 complaints received in respect of Council houses and all of these were investigated, but not all of the required works were completed by the end of the year as it is necessary to give priority to the more structurally important items. 1,571 visits were made by office based staff to carry out investigations.

In addition to routine repairs the following major items of maintenance were carried out:—

Replacement of defective window frames on the Brazley Estate proceeded along with re-rendering and replacement of gutters, rainwater and soil fittings. At Hilton Estate the replacement of window frames was completed as a pre-painting programme.

External painting was carried out at 360 houses—260 by private contractor on Hilton Estate - at Hilton, Ormston and Old Lords Estates. This is an increase of some 100 dwellings over the previous year.

Re-rendering of the houses was also continued on Hilton Estate.

Internal decorating was carried out at vacant houses and at those houses occupied by elderly persons on Hopwood Hill Estate.

The improvement of older Council houses continued at Brazley and Old Lords Estates. These schemes are being undertaken by the Department and involve 34 bungalows and 120 houses. At Brazley they are being carried out in conjunction with a Smoke Control Order.

The following items show in detail the work carried out during the year under review:-

(a) **Inspection of dwelling houses—**

No. of dwelling houses inspected for defects	667
No. of inspections made	2380
No. of dwelling houses inspected found to have defects	646
No. of dwelling houses, including those found to be defective prior to 1966, where defects were remedied	475

(b) Slum Clearance—

No. of houses represented in Clearance Areas	12
ance Areas	nil
No. of houses demolished as a result of action under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1937	nil
No. of houses closed under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1957	6
No. of families displaced and rehoused by the Council as a result of slum clearance	13

Improvement of older houses.—The following tables show the extent of this work during 1969.

(a) Improvement Grants—

No. of applications received.		No. of applications approved.		No. of houses Improved.	
Owner Occupier	Tenanted	Owner Occupier	Tenanted	Owner Occupier	Tenanted
14	6	13	5	5	3

(b) Standard Grants—

No. applica- tions received		No. applica- tions approved		No. houses improved		Amenities provided					
Owner Occu- pier	Tenan- ted	Owner Occu- pier	Tenan- ted	Owner Occu- pier	Tenan- ted	Fixed bath	Wash- hand basin	Hot water supply	Inside W.C.	Food Store	Sinks
35	7	32	7	45	5	32	31	33	50	47	—

The result of these works together with that carried out in previous years is the modernisation of 363 houses. Again this cannot be considered a satisfactory response to the legislation on this subject although this is not peculiar to this Authority who have made every effort to assist householders in the pursuance of this scheme.

House Building.—A total of 140 houses were completed by private builders during the year.

House Letting.—At the 31st December, 1969 there were 465 applicants on the Council's general housing list, which is 33 less than the previous year. The number was made up as follows:-

Applicants living in rooms	78
Applicants overcrowded in separate accommodation (by rehousing standards)	29
Applicants living out of Horwich	91
Miscellaneous applicants	267

Included in the miscellaneous category are 27 applicants who are also separately listed amongst 228 applicants for old persons accommodation. This category of applicants remains the most persistent in the search for smaller accommodation and shows an increase of 46 over last year. Of these applicants 97 are awaiting Warden Supervised accommodation.

The Council has to date accommodated old people in 175 flats and bungalows which are so situated as to be satisfactory for applicants included in this category.

A scheme which provides a Warden to supervise 20 flats and bungalows occupied by elderly people at Lower Claypool came into operation during the year. A two way speech system of communication has been installed in each dwelling and in the Warden's house and this has proved to be superior to the bell system as installed in the other Warden supervised accommodation. There are now 102 such units available for this class of tenant.

SECTION F.**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

Diphtheria.—There were no cases notified.

Encephalitis.—No case reported.

Erysipelas.—No case reported.

Malaria.—No case reported.

Measles.—272 cases were reported as against 11 in the previous year.

Meningococcal Infection.—No case reported.

Paratyphoid Fever. No case reported.

Pneumonia.—No case reported.

Poliomyelitis.—No case occurred.

Scarlet Fever.—5 cases were reported.

Smallpox (Variola).—No case occurred.

Tuberculosis.—There were 2 new pulmonary cases notified and one death from pulmonary tuberculosis occurred during the year.

Typhoid Fever.—No case.

Whooping Cough.—No case was reported.

Infective Jaundice.—39 cases were reported.

